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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 22

Reclaim your dinner

Pasta dish is great to share on Sunday PAGE 33

BLASTING INTO THE FINALS

TWO CANADIANS HAVE MADE THE CUT FOR THE LAST COUNTDOWN IN METRO'S RACE FOR SPACE PAGES 14-15

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CANUCKS ABDICATE OPENER

Los Angeles Kings centre Jarret Stoll celebrates a goal by Kings defenceman Willie Mitchell, not pictured, past Vancouver Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo during playoff hockey action at Rogers Arena Wednesday. Game 1 went to the L.A. Kings, 4-2. More coverage, pages 4 & 34. JONATHAN HAYWARD /THE CANADIAN PRESS

Popcorn, a movie and ... a beer

Province announces on Wednesday that movie theatres will be allowed to serve alcohol PAGE 3

Trayvon's killer arrested

Neighbourhood-watch volunteer who admits to shooting and killing unarmed teen has been charged with second-degree murder PAGE 13

Svengali set to hypnotize

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet production hits the stage at the Centre for Performing Arts later this month PAGE 19

Rait's back with new inspiration

Singer Bonnie Rait returns to the studio, working with Grammy-winning producer Joe Henry — an unexpected but long-awaited collaboration for both parties PAGE 21

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Commission rejects proposed TransLink fare increase

TransLink commissioner Martin Crilly speaks at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel on Wednesday. KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

Transit. Cost of cash fares and monthly passes could still increase next year despite commission's findings

KENDRA WONG
vancouver@metronews.ca

The Regional Transportation Commission has rejected TransLink's proposal to raise all bus fares by 12.5 per cent in 2013, and instead issued a challenge to the company to cut costs rather than hit riders with more fare increases.

"TransLink now seeks fare increases outpacing inflation," said TransLink commissioner Martin Crilly on Wednesday. "The ruling limits fare increases to two per cent per year and sets targets for cost-saving by TransLink — but without trimming or deferring service improvements."

An efficiency review by the commission revealed that TransLink could find an extra $40 to $60 million in the next three years with cuts to administration costs and by shaving the time and money spent on bus logistics and recovery time of buses.

The proposal would have generated $15 to $28 million in extra fare revenue in 2013.

The ruling excludes monthly FareCard passes, meaning the price of monthly bus passes in Zones 1 to 3 could still increase.

Cash fares for all zones may also rise by 10 per cent next year.

According to Crilly, TransLink is allowed to automatically increase cash fares by two per cent annually without the approval of the commission. Since cash fares have remained the same since 2008, TransLink could increase fares by 25 cents.

FareSaver ticket books and day passes will remain the same.

The last transit-fare increase in Metro Vancouver was in 2010, when the price of pre-paid tickets grew by 10.5 per cent.

Mayors' response

Lower Mainland mayors say they're not surprised by Transportation Minister Blair Lekstrom's proposals to improve TransLink governance and find new revenue sources.

- "I think that in light of all of the issues (surrounding) funding ... and the (TransLink) commissioner's report, I think the minister took the position that he needed to take," said Peter Fassbender, vice-chair of the Mayors' Council, representing 21 municipalities.
- In the letter released Tuesday, Lekstrom proposed adding two seats on TransLink's board for members of the Mayors' Council, and performing an "in-depth" efficiency audit.
- The ministry is also evaluating options such as legislative amendments to change laws surrounding fare evasion.

Province approves drinking in cinemas

Vancouverites will soon be able to enjoy a glass of wine or beer with their popcorn after the province announced Wednesday it will allow movie theatres to sell liquor.

The changes will allow multiplex theatres to serve alcohol in "adult-only auditoriums and adjacent lobbies."

Single-screen and live theatres will now also be allowed to apply for a licence to serve alcohol in lobbies where minors are present, and in auditoriums for adult-only screenings or events.

"These changes give movie theatres and live-event theatres much more flexibility to operate while allowing adults to responsibly enjoy a drink while watching a movie," Energy Minister Rich Coleman, who is also responsible for alcohol regulation, said in a statement.

The decision comes after a public fight by the owner of the Rio Theatre, the NDP opposition and Vancouver city councillors to change B.C.'s "archaic" liquor laws.

Rio owner Corinne Lea said she is "absolutely thrilled" with the new rules.

"This is what we've been fighting for ever since we got our liquor licence," Lea said. "We've been trying to be a multimedia venue and the changes will allow us to do that and hopefully it will help improve our financial situation."

About 30 live-event theatres and 100 movie theatres are eligible to apply for liquor licences in B.C.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Corinne Lea, owner of the Rio Theatre, says the new changes will bring a much-needed boost to the industry. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

1 NEWS

On the web

A whale of a birth

A baby beluga is coming to Georgia Aquarium. The world's largest aquarium has a rare pregnant beluga whale, the first mammal to conceive at the downtown Atlanta attraction since it opened in 2005. Watch the video at metronews.ca

Science or sci-fi?

Fact or fiction? Could you blow up the Death Star? Or teleport, like in Star Trek? Those and other myths explained, as scientists discuss fact versus science fiction. More at metronews.ca

Mobile news

Global warming just became even more of a problem. Scientists are blaming global warming for higher levels of carbon dioxide in the Pacific that are damaging oyster reproduction. Scan the code for the story.

The good times are back as optimistic Canucks fans come out in droves to watch their team open the 2012 NHL playoffs at home

STORY AND PHOTOS BY: KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Party! Playoff fever returns to Vancouver

1 Hockey heaven. Trio get their game faces on

From left, Jory Welsh, Andrew the Crazy Canuck and Joey Danielson get revved up at the pregame party at Rogers Arena Wednesday.

2 Blue, green and white. Fan shows her colours

Trang Dinh paints Canucks colours on Gurjeet Anmole's face outside Rogers Arena before Game 1.

3 Creating memories. A Canucks fan is born

Paul Banwait takes his five-year-old daughter Aleesha to her first Canucks game.

4 Smooth moves. That's one way to pump up the crowd

Six-year-old Jaden Kryz tears it up with Fin in front of a crowd outside Rogers Arena.

Jubilant fans crowded the plaza outside Rogers Arena Wednesday night as the Vancouver Canucks prepared to play their first playoff game since last year's agonizing brush with Stanley Cup glory.

Rasheed Al-Nakeeb, who was raised in West Vancouver but has lived in London for 20 years, said he flew more than 7,000 kilometres just to cheer on his team in the playoffs.

"Every year I come when I can to watch the Canucks play because I'm passionate about the team," he said. "I know we've never won, but I think this is the year. I think everything's in place, including me."

Al-Nakeeb said he has no family in B.C., just great friends who are putting him up and a "very understanding" boss in England who is allowing him to stay in Vancouver as long as the Canucks are in the playoffs.

Jordan Kryz brought his two young sons, six-year-old Jaden and three-year-old Savion, down to the pregame party to bust some moves with Fin the mascot in front of an enthralled crowd of spectators.

With their small faces painted blue, white and green, the boys took the scene with wide eyes and posed for pictures with the charisma of seasoned celebrities.

"They love the Canucks and they love hip-hop so they're always down to throw down a few moves for the Canucks," said Kryz. "They danced all last year through the whole run of the playoffs at Rogers Arena, and this is the second year they're giving it a go but they're really enjoying it."

Kryz said the Sedins are his favourite players, and he hopes Daniel "feels better soon" after suffering a concussion.

And so do the Canucks.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING PRESENTED BY SCOTIABANK

GET CASH BACK ON EVERYDAY PURCHASES

SINGLE PARENT WITH KIDS

Maureen, 42, is a single mom living in Halifax with her two children, Sandra, 8, and Billy, 12. She rents a three-bedroom apartment close to the Public Gardens and not far from the medical centre where she works as office manager. Her kids can walk to school, and although she has a car — she uses it for her weekly grocery shopping and for driving the kids to practices — Maureen takes public transportation to work. She's always watched her money and looks for good value from every dollar she spends.

Maureen has an annual household income of $45,000. Some months she lives pay cheque to pay cheque but "I have a budget, and I stick to it. Along with all the monthly expenses, I'm saving for the kids' education, and every summer we travel west to visit family in Winnipeg."

She uses her *Scotia Momentum*® VISA Card to pay for a lot of the everyday purchases she makes such as gas, groceries and drugstore purchases.

The *Scotia Momentum*® VISA Card gives her 2 per cent cash back on everyday purchases at gas stations, grocery stores and drug stores, as well as on recurring bill payments. It also gives 1 per cent cash back on all other eligible purchases. The cash back payout is automatically deposited into her savings account every November. While there's an annual fee of $39, Maureen has worked out the cash back she gets on purchases — and it's worth it.

"It makes sense for me to use the card because I get cash back on gas, groceries and other things that I have to buy anyway," says Maureen. At the same time, she likes to have the credit card as a safety net and tries to pay the balance every month.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

Maureen's profile:

Maureen uses her *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card to pay for about $885 worth of purchases a month. Some fixed costs, such as rent, are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.

	$0	200	400	
Grocery Store				$ 300
Gas Station				$ 100
Drug Store				$ 75
Recurring Bills				$ 90
Other				$ 320
			Total Monthly	**$ 885**

Maureen's Estimated Annual *Scotia Momentum*® Cash Back

Maureen has a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card (the card below on the left). Here's a look at the cash back her monthly purchases add up to with her card — and a comparison with what her cash back would add up to if she had the *Scotia Momentum*® No-Fee VISA card (the card on the right).

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Insp. Les Yeo, head of the riot-investigation team, announces Wednesday that more charges have been laid against suspected rioters, and a third person has pleaded guilty to participating in the June 15 riot. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

UBC student pleads guilty to riot raps

Public apology. Richmond woman wrote letter to the community explaining what she did

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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A University of B.C. student from Richmond is the latest person to plead guilty to participating in the Stanley Cup riot.

Camille Cacnio, a 21-year-old biology student, was charged in January for taking part in a riot and break-and-enter.

Cacnio, who was fired from her job as a receptionist at the Burrard Acura dealership, penned a public letter explaining her involvement in the June 15 melee after she was caught on video leaving the Black and Lee Tuxedos, carrying two pairs of men's dress pants.

The 3,500-word letter, posted online three days after the riot, offered apologies to her friends and family, her employer, the Vancouver Canucks and Vancouver residents.

A sentencing hearing has been set for June 20.

Ryan Dickinson of Coquitlam was the first person to plead guilty and be sentenced for his participation in the riot. He was given a 17-month jail sentence, plus two years' probation. Emmanuel Alviar, 19, of Surrey also pleaded guilty and will be sentenced next month.

Meanwhile, Vancouver police announced that Crown has approved 18 more charges against seven suspected rioters Wednesday morning, bringing the total to 225 criminal charges against 85 alleged rioters.

They have also recommended an additional 76 criminal charges against 25 more suspected rioters. To date, police have recommended 508 against 175 rioters.

The VPD also launched a campaign involving Facebook ads that will appear on Facebook profiles of 15- to 27-year-olds who live in the Lower Mainland, Kelowna, Kamloops, Victoria, Nanaimo and Prince George areas.

"We expect up to 160,000 people each day to have their eyes on our ad, which when you click on it will take you to the riot website," said Insp. Les Yeo, head of the riot-investigation team. "This is an opportunity for us to drive people to our website to help identify (pictures of alleged rioters)."

Missing women

Pickton file destroyed

The Robert Pickton inquiry has heard that a court file on an attempted murder investigation involving Pickton in 1997 was destroyed, despite a policy that such files should be saved for 75 years.

The revelation came during questioning of Randi Conner, the Crown prosecutor who handled the case and decided not to put Pickton on trial because the sex worker he was accused of attacking was a drug addict whose testimony couldn't be relied upon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fire warning. Police want residents to be cautious

Vancouver police are warning residents in the Grandview-Woodlands to be more cautious after a slew of fires in the community.

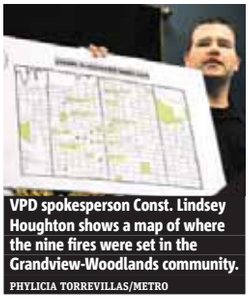
VPD Const. Lindsey Houghton said there have been nine fires set in the area between March 24 and April 8. The arsons happened between 5:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m., which have included mattresses, garbage and vehicles.

There have been no injuries, but the fires have caused $30,000 in damages.

Police say the only connection they've found that links the fires is the general geographic area where they happened.

Houghton said the fires were started by different methods.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO



VPD spokesperson Const. Lindsey Houghton shows a map of where the nine fires were set in the Grandview-Woodlands community. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

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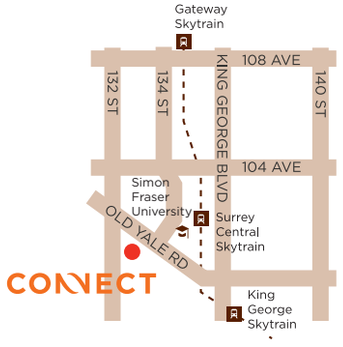

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Dis-continuing education. VSB program too pricey to keep running: Report

A 100-year-old continuing-education program could be axed in a slash-and-save move by the Vancouver school district.

Maureen Ciarniello, an associate superintendent with the Vancouver School Board, said the proposal to discontinue the VSB Continuing Education program came forward after the board hired PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to review its finances to deal with its ongoing budget shortfalls.

The PwC report recommended discontinuing the program to save $910,000.

"The PwC also noted that over the last five years, the program has been in a deficit position somewhere in $100,000 to $120,000 a year.... They didn't predict that there would be a way to turn it around," Ciarniello said, adding the cut would take effect Aug. 30.

The report forecasts up to an $8.5-million shortfall for the 2012-13 school year.

"This has been a really wonderful program that has had many years of great success, so the proposal in no way indicates that this hasn't been a value," Ciarniello said.

She added that 9,300 people have taken courses in the program over the past year. If the program gets cut, the school district will try to work with other organizations to transfer some of the district's program opportunities and see if its contracted instructors can offer its programs through another provider.

"It's costing the board money to run these programs and also using space that could potentially be rented out for additional revenue that could be put back in the operating budget for school programs," school-board chair Patti Bacchus said.

But she urged the public to give their input.

The board must adopt a budget for the next school year by April 30.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen garden

Classical garden wins more praise

After receiving international praise from National Geographic, which named it the world's most beautiful garden, the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden garnered more recognition.

The garden, located in Vancouver, has been shortlisted as one of the greatest public spaces in the country in the second annual Greatest Places in Canada contest, organizers announced Thursday. It is the only location in British Columbia to make the list.

Gary Noble of the Canadian Institute of Planners says Sun Yat-Sen beat out numerous other contenders in B.C.

"I'm amazed with these places; they're places that I never knew existed," Noble said. KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

Scout's honour. Good Turn Week starts this Friday

Scouts Canada will be releasing a veritable army of do-gooders this weekend, part of a movement it hopes will start a nationwide chain reaction.

Good Turn Week, running April 14-22, will start when 100,000 eager scouts take to the streets with a mission to do one good deed each.

Once they've spread the good cheer, each scout will pass on a Good Turn bracelet to the person who was helped, who should in turn try to do a good deed and pass the bracelet on again.

"Good Turn Week is an opportunity for all Canadians to put into practice the values that we teach our youth," said Steve Kent, chief commissioner of Scouts Canada.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

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Former horseback rider Carly Winch poses with a horse statue near her workplace. GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

Painless info at your fingertips

Resource. New network launched for millions of Canadians suffering from arthritis

GRAHAM TEMPLETON
vancouver@metronews.ca

Try telling local administrative assistant Carly Winch that arthritis is an "old-person's disease."

At just 22 years old she became one of the 4.6 million Canadians who are afflicted with some variant of the condition. She was forced to give up horseback riding and, with it, her beloved horse, Hunter.

Now, two years later, Winch is helping raise awareness of the true scope of the arthritis problem by writing a blog about her life with arthritis for the newly launched Arthritis Broadcast Network (ABN).

"So many people have already come and told me they had no idea I had arthritis before I wrote about it," she said Wednesday. "It's so good to see that we're already educating people like that."

The ABN looks to educate the public about arthritis and its sufferers, and to be a resource for those who have or are likely to develop it.

"There are too many myths out there about arthritis," said Cheryl Koehn, rheumatoid arthritis sufferer and co-founder of the ABN. "People think only the elderly get it, and that there are no treatments or preventative measures, or that people with arthritis can't be active."

Koehn herself was just 28, and an Olympic-level volleyball player, when she began noticing symptoms.

"It just rocked my world," she said Wednesday. "My identity was so tied up in my body, and its ability to do things. I had no idea I could get arthritis at that age."

Despite being Canada's most common chronic disease, Koehn said, the government spends only one to three per cent of its medical-research budget on arthritis.

"That's why we need something like (the ABN). We need the government to have a good, facts-based understanding of this issue, and that means the public has to have one, too."

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Tori's blood: Court hears of 'one-in-150-trillion' clue

Michael Rafferty trial. Forensic biologist reveals with near certainty the source of evidence found in accused killer's car

Blood determined with near certainty to be Victoria Stafford's was found on the door of the car belonging to the man accused of killing her, court in London, Ont., heard Wednesday.

A mixture of blood from at least two people on the rubber moulding of the back passenger side door on Michael Rafferty's car was found to contain DNA matching the eight-year-old girl's profile, court heard.

The profile was compiled using her parents' DNA, one of Tori's teeth and a hair from a lice comb, forensic biologist Jennifer McLean testified in the London, Ont., court.

Michael Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault and kidnapping. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The probability that the female blood on Rafferty's car door was not Tori's, that a randomly selected person would coincidentally share the same DNA profile, is one in 150 trillion, she said.

Science, in fact, was the focus on Wednesday at Rafferty's trial. Experts from the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto spoke about testing done on several items seized from Rafferty's home and car following his May 19, 2009, arrest.

Rafferty is alleged to have kidnapped Tori outside her Woodstock, Ont., elementary school on April 8, 2009.

With his then-girlfriend Terri-Lynne McClintic, he is alleged to have driven the Grade 3 student more than 100 kilometres away to a rural area, then raped and killed her.

Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

McClintic is already serving a life sentence after she pleaded guilty to first-degree murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alleged break-in bid

AlarmForce boss sounds the alarm

Talk about picking the wrong house.

Three men are facing charges after a alleged break-in attempt at the Toronto home of AlarmForce president Joel Matlin.

Matlin was on vacation but his video-equipped alarm system sent him an email with pictures of one of the men, it's alleged.

And the entire incident was caught on video, which was sent to police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Midair emergency

Bomb-threat jet combed for clues

A Korean Air jet that made an emergency landing at a Vancouver Island military base was inspected Wednesday.

The Boeing 777, carrying 149 passengers from Vancouver to Seoul, was diverted after a bomb threat.

It landed under the escort of two U.S. fighter jets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drug-injection sites. Toronto, Ottawa would benefit, report says

Toronto and Ottawa would both benefit from having supervised drug-injection facilities, a new report suggests.

Four years in the making, the study recommends three safe-injection sites for Toronto and two for Ottawa.

But it says there isn't enough evidence to recommend a supervised drug-smoking facility and suggested more research be done on that issue.

Dr. Carol Strike said she and co-author Dr. Ahmed Bayoumi, a scientist, hope the communities will take the advice to heart.

"I think we have strong evidence to suggest that there's a benefit for both cities and we hope that both cities use the evidence to move forward," said Strike, an associate professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

A growing number of studies — studies used by Bayoumi and Strike to write their report — suggest supervised-injection sites are beneficial both to injection-drug users and the cities in which they live.

Helping users

Currently, Vancouver is the only city in Canada that has supervised drug-injection sites.

- **Vancouver.** One is a standalone facility known as Insite. As well, the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation offers a safe-injection service for clients of the agency.
- **Other cities.** Victoria, Montreal and Quebec City have expressed interest in setting up sites.

This report estimates that opening facilities in Toronto and Ottawa would reduce new HIV and hepatitis-C infections, though the numbers of potentially averted infections per year are not enormous.

The federal government is opposed to supervised-injection sites. It has tried repeatedly to shut down Vancouver's Insite but was rebuffed by the Supreme Court of Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turbulence! MacKay flies into more shelling over the F-35

More flak: Defence Minister Peter MacKay. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calls for Defence Minister Peter MacKay to be fired over the auditor general's scathing report on F-35 fighter jets are getting louder and nastier.

The opposition Liberals say MacKay doesn't know his file and pointed to a flub Wednesday in Halifax where the minister referred to the wrong statistical table in trying to make his case over the conflicting numbers associated with last week's bombshell audit.

Liberal House Leader Marc Garneau says MacKay is either incompetent or "not too bright."

The personal attack followed claims that the Conservative government lied over the cost of the multibillion-dollar program by not including roughly $10 billion in regular, ongoing operational expenses.

The Defence Department was accused of hiding the truth by auditor general Michael Ferguson, who says that, had operational expenses been included, the real cost of the F-35 program would be closer to $24.7 billion, instead of the reported $14.7 billion.

The inclusion of ongoing operational expenses is a longstanding disagreement between the military and the auditor.

NDP defence critic David Christopherson said federal Treasury Board guidelines stipulate that such figures should be spelled out for public consumption.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Black teen's killer finally arrested and charged

Trayvon Martin. Neighbourhood-watch volunteer now faces second-degree murder count

The neighbourhood-watch volunteer who admits shooting unarmed black teen Trayvon Martin was arrested and charged with second-degree murder, after weeks of tension and protests.

George Zimmerman, 28, could get up to life in prison if convicted.

His new lawyer said Wednesday that Zimmerman will plead not guilty.

Zimmerman turned himself in Wednesday night in Florida and was expected to appear in court Thursday.

Florida special prosecutor Angela Corey announced the charges but would not disclose details of her investigation, saying: "That's why we try cases in a courtroom."

Second-degree murder carries a mandatory minimum of 25 years behind bars when a gun is used.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legal loophole

Initially, Zimmerman was not arrested in part because of Florida's "stand your ground" law.

- **The law.** It gives people wide leeway to use deadly force without having to retreat in the face of danger.
- **The defence.** Zimmerman's new attorney, Mark O'Mara, said he will invoke the "stand your ground" law in the man's defence.

Seven suitcase survivors

They're a lucky family. A mother and her six English bulldog puppies pose with a suitcase at the Toledo Area Humane Society in Ohio. For them, disaster was almost in the bag. A man allegedly tried to abandon the six puppies by zipping them inside a suitcase and leaving it outside an Ohio business with their mother. The man was charged after authorities found he'd left the luggage tag with his contact info on the suitcase. DAVE ZAPOTOSKY/THE BLADE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Little miracle

'Stillborn' baby found alive

An Argentine mother fell to her knees in shock after finding her baby alive in a coffin in the morgue 12 hours after the girl was declared dead.

Analia Bouter named her newborn Miracle Light.

The girl, born three months premature, was in critical but improving condition in the same hospital where the staff pronounced her stillborn.

Rafael Sabatinelli, the deputy health minister in Chaco, announced that five medical professionals have been suspended pending an official investigation.

Bouter said the baby was quickly put in a coffin. Twelve hours passed before she and her husband were able to open the coffin to say their last goodbyes.

She said that's when the baby trembled. She thought it was her imagination — then she realized the little girl was alive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bare necessities

Naked maids are cleaning up

Police in a conservative Texas city are keeping close tabs on a young entrepreneur's recently opened cleaning service that offers nude maids.

Lubbock police Sgt. Jonathan Stewart said the owner of Fantasy Maid Service of Lubbock doesn't have a permit to operate a sexually oriented business and officers are watching for any violation, which would bring a $2,000 US fine.

But owner Melissa Borrett insists she's not operating such a business.

Customers pay $100 an hour for one maid or $150 an hour for two maids, and no touching is allowed, she said. "I run a maid service," the 26-year-old entrepreneur said. "We really just clean houses. These girls are not performers. They're maids."

So far, Borrett said, business has been steady and she is now busy interviewing to hire more maids.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Making final orbit in Race for Space

Metro English Canada's finalists for Metro's Race for Space are competing against 14 others from around the world for a chance to be launched into space. The winner — to be selected by an international panel of judges — will be announced April 27.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

KIRBY

'OUTLANDISH'

Will Kirby grew up dreaming of flying to Mars to search for life on the Red Planet.

Thanks to Metro International's Race for Space contest, he's one step closer to his goal. Kirby is Canada's co-finalist for a chance to fly into space.

Kirby says he saw the contest in the paper and decided to take a shot. He then pressed his friends and family to back his entry.

As the votes grew, the undergrad biology student planted himself in public places on the Dalhousie University campus in Halifax to have loud conversations with friends about the contest, and about how he needed online support.

"I began to think, Hey, this is actually possible," he says. "Over the next few days, I did a lot of arm waving at Dalhousie University."

Kirby, 23, was born in Ottawa, raised in Acton, Ont., and moved to Halifax to study. His father has a PhD in chemistry, and childhood walks were filled with discussions of quantum physics. "I always had a big interest in science, mainly because of him," he says.

The idea of actually being in space awes him. "I would try to make an emotional, inspiring speech, but I don't know if I'll just be like, 'Daaaaarrrr,'" he laughs.

Each Metro country is submitting finalists, and a jury will pick the winner April 27. The actual flight would happen in 2014.

Even if he falls short in the Race for Space, Kirby hopes to make it off Earth one day. He plans to get his PhD in astrobiology, the study of the potential for life on other planets, and has the "outlandish" goal of becoming an astronaut.

"The ultimate goal is to get to Mars and be one of the first scientists who discovers extraterrestrial life," he says.

"I can fight as hard as I can to get as close to my goal as possible. If it's not in the stars, then I can say I did my best."

JON TATTRIE/FOR METRO

On the web

Read Kirby's entry at metronews.ca/features.

BUBBLES

'REALLY COOL'

We've all come to know and love the quirky character Bubbles from the Canadian TV show Trailer Park Boys. Behind the big glasses, kitten obsession and signature frown is Mike Smith, a man who has loved space and rocketry since he was five years old.

Since March 5, applicants across 22 countries have been narrowed down, leaving Smith to be Canada's co-finalist for a chance to fly into space.

"The whole experience of going through the training and learning about the space vehicle, the build up to it, would be amazing," says Smith.

Smith, 39, grew up in Nova Scotia and studied English at St. Francis Xavier University.

If he wins, he plans on making a documentary, recording the process leading up to the flight. Smith says the documentary could inspire youth to become involved in space exploration.

The avid Rush fan says, if allowed, he would bring music with him into space.

"It would be really cool to listen to Cygnus X1 in space." The Rush track is a psychedelic blend of rock, ambient sound effects and metal. Smith says he would also love to bring his beloved Conky, the ventriloquist puppet, with him for the trip.

"Some friends and family have been telling me I'm nuts to get into a space vehicle. They have opinions about if it's a good idea to shoot yourself into space," says Smith, who's more than excited at the prospect of space travel.

DELIA MACPHERSON/ FOR METRO IN TORONTO

On the web

Read Bubbles' entry at metronews.ca/features.

‘Hello, Earthlings!’ Metro reporter says from ‘space’

Trying space travel on for size. Metro Holland’s Jeroen van Wieringen spends the day at a space-flight simulator facility

JEROEN VAN WIERINGEN
Metro World News

Our reporter Jeroen van Wieringen gets inside the SXC flight simulator. SXC

“And on the left you’ll find a sickness bag,” Mark, a technician from Space XC, says, concluding his instructions before he closes down the spaceship’s cockpit.

I nod bravely, but secretly I die a thousand times. I have every reason to. It’s not every day that I am flying 3,500 kilometres an hour, up to 103 kilometres in the sky — all a part of becoming an astronaut.

You may be scratching your head and thinking, “Astronaut?”

Yes, but in truth a virtual one. I’m sitting in a facility called Desdemona in the Dutch village of Soesterberg.

Here, you’ll find the only simulator in the world that can literally turn in every direction. Because of extremely good projections in the cockpit, the user — in this case, me — thinks he’s sitting in a real spaceship.

“All right, Jeroen, just press the red button when you are ready,” the “pilot” Harry says calmly.

“No, don’t!” the scared one inside me thinks. “Go for it!” screams the daredevil in the same body. And that last one wins.

I’m being pressed into the seat as the world around me is passing me by faster and faster.

“More than 200 kilometres an hour ... and liftoff.”

Thanks, Harry. As if I haven’t noticed that myself already.

I see land below me, clouds next to me, stars above me. The continuous noise of the rocket engines is banging in my ears. But then — silence.

The engines are shut down, the enormous pressure has been lifted. Weightlessness, that’s how it feels. Yuri Gagarin, I’m just like you!

A big smile appears on my face and my eyes are looking in all directions as fast as they can, just to miss nothing of the wonderful world around me.

“So right now, can I call myself a virtual astronaut?” I hear myself asking.

“Yes, now you are, because you just crossed the zone of 100 kilometres, the boundary between our atmosphere and outer space,” Harry says enthusiastically into my headset.

Hello, Earthlings!

However, going up means coming down again as well.

I know what comes next — they explained it to me. It seems like about three times my own weight, about 250 kilograms, is trying to crush me.

Although I knew it was coming, it takes me by surprise. Blood rushes down, my head feels lighter. I pinch my hands and put pressure on my legs to fight it. It barely helps. If this goes on much longer…

But it doesn’t.

“Welcome back, this is the right time to have a relaxed final part of the flight,” Harry says. “Well done.”

And — to be honest — I agree with him. Especially when I see the empty sickness bag next to me.

That down-to-earth feeling

It takes me by surprise. Blood is rushing down, my head feels lighter. I pinch my hands and put pressure on my legs to fight it. It barely helps. If this goes on much longer...

Jeroen van Wieringen during his return to Earth.

Commercial space flights

Heading for next frontier ‘a life changer’

Michiel Mol has been dreaming of going to space since he was eight-years-old.

Influenced by science-fiction movies and by watching the space race put the first man on the moon, he’s always wanted to experience the galaxy first-hand.

“It’s all because of something inside of us human beings,” Mol tells Metro.

“We want to go further and find the next frontier.”

The model of the Space XC space station in Curaçao. SXC

Now, Mol may be able to make his and the dreams of many others come true.

He’s the CEO and partner of Space XC, a company that will be sending people to outer space on its spacecraft starting in 2014.

Previous space travellers have been known to pay exorbitant amounts of up to $50 million US to get to the International Space Station.

Space Adventures, based in Vienna, Va., is offering a 90-minute spacewalk and five-day stay on the ISS for $15 million — but the flight isn’t included.

“You’re looking down on the seven billion people on Earth. It’s really a life-changer,” Mol says.

MICHELLE CASTILLO/ METRO WORLD NEWS

Online

For the full Race for Space package, visit metronews.ca/features. Additional features include:

- New York designers best known for dressing Lady Gaga and Rihanna give us their take on a new spacesuit.
- Neil deGrasse Tyson of New York’s Hayden Planetarium reviews Angry Birds Space.
- Businessman Gregory Olsen dishes on being a space tourist.

WagJag.com

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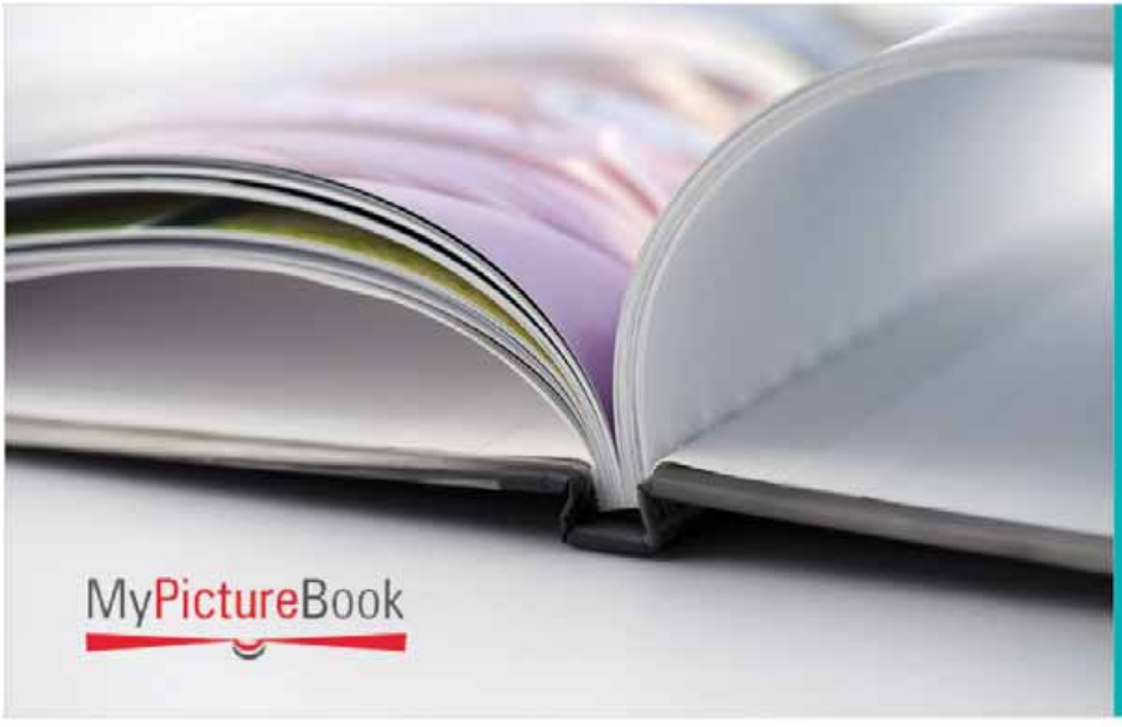

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Publishers sued over ebook pricing

The U.S. Justice Department and 15 states sued Apple Inc. and major book publishers Wednesday, alleging a conspiracy that raised the price of electronic books.

They said the scheme cost consumers more than $100 million US in the past two years by adding $2 or $3, sometimes as much as $5, to the price of each .

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said executives at the highest levels of the companies conspired to eliminate competition among ebook sellers. Justice's antitrust chief, Sharis Pozen, said the executives were desperate to get Amazon.com — the marketer of Kindle ebook readers — to raise the $9.99 price point it had set for the most popular ebook titles, because that was substantially below their hardcover prices.

The federal government reached a settlement with three of the publishers, Hachette, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster. But it will proceed with its lawsuit in federal court in New York City against Apple and Holtzbrinck Publishers, doing business as Macmillan, and the Penguin Publishing Co. Ltd., doing business as Penguin Group.

Connecticut and Texas, two of the 15 states filing a separate lawsuit, reached agreements with Hachette and HarperCollins to provide $52 million in restitution to consumers, using a formula based on the number of states participating and the number of ebooks sold in each state.

Other states in the case may sign onto the agreement, and other companies might be persuaded to join.

Holder told a Justice Department news conference that "we believe that consumers paid millions of dollars more for some of the most popular titles" as a result of the alleged conspiracy. Pozen said the scheme added an average of $2 to $3 to the prices of individual ebooks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eye on the (very) small screen

The HTC Evo 3D smartphone is shown in San Francisco in this June 2011 file photo. Canada's big telecom companies have scooped up television stations for more content, but so far small numbers of consumers are watching live sports, news and other shows on their smartphones. When considered as a percentage of all TV watched, the number of people viewing television on smartphones is certainly well under one per cent, said Deloitte Canada analyst Duncan Stewart, who noted that screen size is a big consideration when it comes to how consumers view content. Research by Media Technology Monitor shows that only about four per cent of anglophone consumers were watching TV on their phones last year, although the figure had doubled since 2010. ERIC RISBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 99.58¢ (-0.01¢)

TSX 12,026.76 (+91.47)

OIL $102.70 US (+$1.68)

GOLD $1,660.30 US (-40¢)

Natural gas: $1.991 US (-0.11¢)
Dow Jones: 12,805.39 (+89.46)

Investment

Canada's banks a safe haven: Moody's

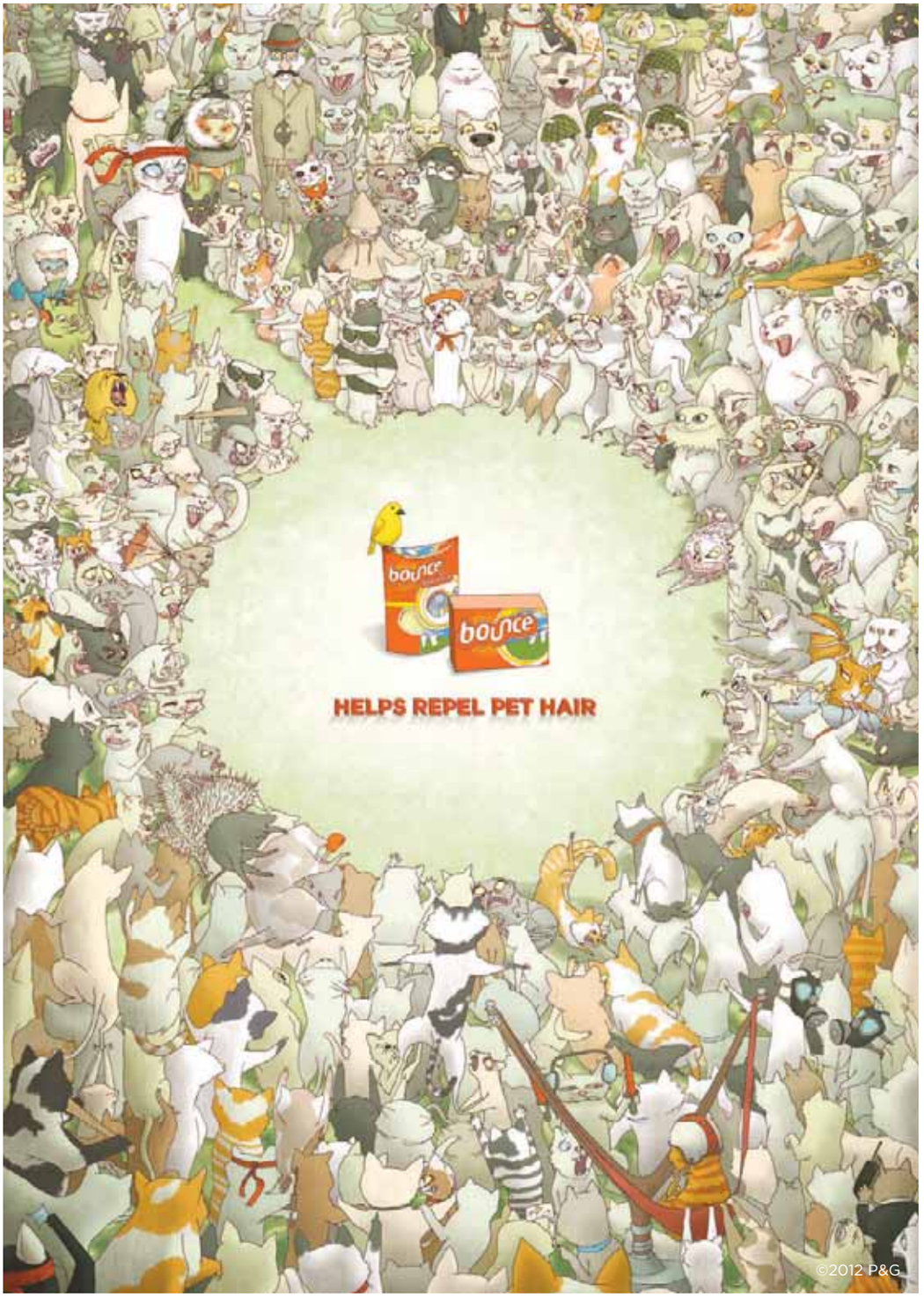
Canada's banks are collectively the soundest in the world, according to Moody's Investors Service, which has recommended the financial institutions to jittery global investors.

The New York-based agency rated all of Canada's big banks at double-A2 or better in a report Wednesday, higher than bank rankings in the United States, Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and other areas of the world.

Canada's big banks also posted good results in the first quarter of 2012, the agency noted.

The rating report is just the latest recognition of Canadian banks, which — unlike counterparts in the U.S. and Europe — suffered no failures during the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



LET THE REAL HOCKEY SEASON BEGIN

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

What with the latest news involving nuclear weapons and dictatorships, it will be paramount to check up on those things when the Stanley Cup playoffs are over.

But for now, let's focus on what's important. Sixteen teams are vying for the world's most famous bird bath/pudding bowl in a bid to take it away from *my* Boston Bruins, who won last year in a victory that I have recounted three or four times (5,000, tops).

Like many journalists, my empathy button is worn down after years of overuse. I recently had a completely dispassionate conversation with an editor about whether a person can be "partially disembowelled." I believe I was eating a sandwich.

But confront me with the NHL playoffs and, well, this is *emotional*. This is life and death.

Just sayin'

We live in a country where our government was completely unapologetic for a $10-billion discrepancy in the costs of fighter jets, but the Toronto Maple Leafs apologized in full-page newspaper ads for their poor season.

That might sound ridiculous if you're not a sports fan, but I'm not alone. We live in a country where our government was completely unapologetic for a $10-billion discrepancy in the costs of fighter jets, but the Toronto Maple Leafs apologized in full-page newspaper ads for their poor season.

Heck, if this government owned the *Winnipeg* Jets and increased ticket prices by $293 (the $10 billion broken down to each Canadian), Manitobans would lay siege to Ottawa. And you can bet the government would be apologizing like a theatregoer trying to get to his mid-row seat.

Long column short, hockey is serious business, which is why my yearly Stanley Cup playoff predictions are so hotly anticipated. They were completely accurate last year, as far as you know.

And here they are!

- "Because it's the cup" commercials, which are aimed at people who don't watch hockey, will air only during hockey.
- If Glenn Healy is watching, every goal will be "unacceptable." If Greg Millen is watching, every goal will be "absolutely no chance for the goaltender." If they both watch the same goal at the same time, the universe will collapse in on itself.
- Every fan whose team loses to one of the eventual Stanley Cup finalists will consider that third place and argue that it shows how close they were to winning.
- Players will be asked, several times, if scoring the first goal is and/or was important. Not once will the player look at the reporter and say, "How much do they pay you exactly?"

And those are my predictions. I'm also picking Boston and Pittsburgh to meet in the Eastern Conference final, which would keep me busy until June. If Leafs/Oilers/Flames/Habs fans could keep an eye on North Korea and the Conservatives during that time, that'd be great.

Remember to keep your head up at all times.

Playoffs making a splash

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Stanley Cup

Replica doubles as fountain in N.Y.C.

To kick off the NHL Stanley Cup playoffs, a 21-foot, 6,600-pound replica of the Stanley Cup trophy was unveiled in Times Square in New York on Wednesday.

The replica trophy doubled as a water fountain that residents and visitors can drink from — much to the amusement of these young fans.

GETTY IMAGES

Vancouver

The playoffs began Wednesday night with three games, one of which saw the Vancouver Canucks hosting the Los Angeles Kings.

- With memories of last year's melee etched into the collective consciousness of Vancouver, local business owners say they're hoping for the best but prepared for the worst.
- "We know we're going to be judged kind of how we do in the playoffs," Canucks forward Ryan Kesler said. "Now the real season begins. It's going to be a good test, this first round, for us."
- The Vancouver Canucks carry the NHL's best record into the Stanley Cup playoffs for the second year in a row.
- More playoffs, page 34. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman stands between the Stanley Cup and a 21-foot replica. GETTY IMAGES

Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chara hoists the Stanley Cup for thousands of fans to see during a rally in celebration of the team's victory in Boston, in this June 2011 file photo.

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

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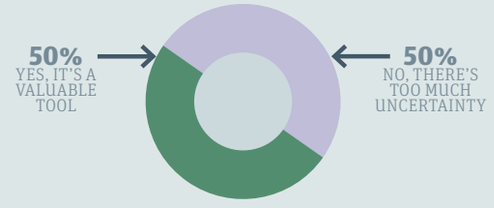

Twitter

@jennnly: I don't know how I would handle if Translink decided to raise the fares again. go crazy possibly. love how accessible Van is, but come on :(

@ericatee604: Thank God someones looking out for the ppl! "@vancouvermetro: TransLink commissioner rejects proposed fare hike

@spyrokid77666: Yay! No fare hikes from TransLink!

@TheJustinFlett: No fare increase for @translink #huzzah

@aguila_azteca89: Commissioner say HELL NO to Translink's request to raise fares in #Vancouver

@SweetSaltBakery: Finally we can watch movies at the theatre European-style!

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Look very closely at this column: You will go see RWB's Svengali

Ballet. Hypnotic production is coming to The Centre for Performing Arts

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

Mark the calendar

- RWB's Svengali is at The Centre for Performing Arts in Vancouver April 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. There is a matinee on April 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets: $32.50 to $89.50 plus taxes at Ticketmaster. Visit RWB.org for more information.

When I was a boy, my parents took me to see a hypnotist called Reveen. If you're old enough, you'll remember the corny advertisements that used to run on television in the weeks leading up to his shows. They always culminated with the catchphrase, "The Man They Call Reveen!"

After the show — Snap! — I decided to become a hypnotist. Of course, I would use my mind-control abilities for more nefarious purposes: rather than control just a few dozen people on stage, why not use my power to control the entire world?

(Insert prepubescent evil laugh here.)

With pocket watch in hand, I slyly attempted to convince my parents to pay for a hypnosis how-to kit.

They declined.

An inability to grow a villainous goatee compounded my problems and, to my chagrin, I was forced to finish elementary school.

After many years, several twists and turns and many highs and lows, that path leads to this week's column, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's (RWB) production of Svengali.

Svengali, you see, is a young man with hypnotic powers. And what does he want? Fame, of course! So he escapes his mother's repressive ballet studio and heads for the decadence of mid-century Weimar, Germany.

There he finds a dazzling young dancer named Trilby, who he quickly transforms into a star. Alas, that star rises beyond even his powerful grasp.

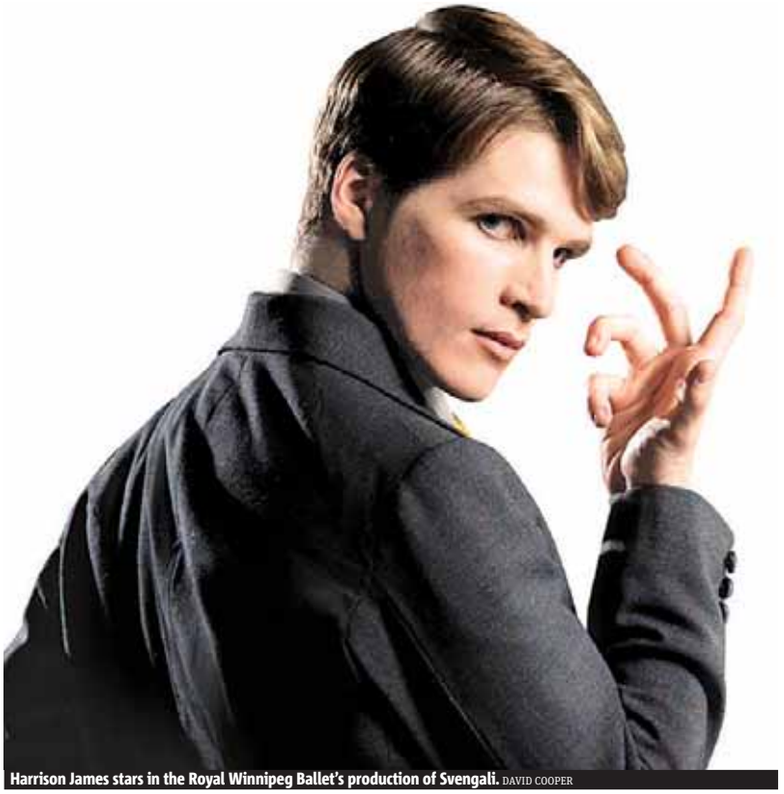
All this is a balletic reimagining of George Du Maurier's novel Trilby and is choreographed by Mark Godden, the creative brains behind RWB's critically acclaimed production, Dracula.

"With Dracula, Mark proved that he could translate seduction and control into movement in a way quite unlike any other choreographer," says André Lewis, RWB's artistic director.

"In Svengali, he takes this to an entirely new level, crafting a story about a grim young man who puts women under a hypnotic spell.

"The choreography is breathtaking, and the story riveting, but what truly elevates the production is the way in which he fills the ballet with rich meaning, message and social commentary."

Believe it. And now awake feeling rested and optimistic about life!



Harrison James stars in the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's production of Svengali. DAVID COOPER

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Alba gets her poetry voice on

Jessica Alba is adding her voice to National Poetry Month, helping to lure children into the art form. Alba is among more than a dozen celebrity parents whose poetry readings are airing on the Disney and Disney Junior channels this month. Readings by Viola Davis, Caroline Kennedy, Liev Schreiber and Katie Holmes are also featured in "A Poem Is ...", a short-form series that sets verse to classic Disney animation. Langston Hughes, Mary Ann Hoberman and May Swenson are among the writers whose work is included. Alba's segment will air April 29, on the Disney Channel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Surprise! Keith Urban offers a few, gets his own from Vince Gill at All For The Hall concert

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Dancer turned actress has a taste for the theatrical

StreetDance 2. Sofia Boutella has loved performing since she was a kid, when she put on shows for her family

Quoted

"I always used a character to create what I needed to do dance-wise. With Madonna, she's always telling stories, so when you dance with her you're an actor as well."

StreetDance 2 star Sofia Boutella on what she calls her theatrical method of dancing and how that translates into her acting career.

ADAM NAYMAN
scene@metronews.ca

Sofia Boutella makes a heck of an entrance in StreetDance 2: her character, a salsa dancer named Eva, is introduced in a boxing ring in the middle of a Parisian nightclub, where she does her best million-dollar-baby impression in between some tricky steps.

"The hardest thing was standing for all hours in those Latin heels," she laughs.

"It was truly painful. At first, I thought it was going to be okay, but there was a moment where I wondered if I was going to make it through."

She cooled her heels — literally — with a numbing spray in between takes and nailed the number — not surprising given her track record as a dancer.

At age 29, Boutella has already done two tours as part of Madonna's troupe, which the Algerian-born performer describes as "the best years of her life;" with Street Dance 2, she's hoping to make the move into acting.

"The way I dance is always very theatrical," she says, explaining the similarity between the two disciplines.

"I always used a character to create what I needed to do dance-wise.

"With Madonna, she's always telling stories, so when you dance with her you're an actor as well," she says.

Boutella traces her love of dance and movement back to her childhood, when she was a "very hyperactive kid."

"I remember my cousin and I always liked to put on shows for our family, to perform for them. We acted like we had a circus in the backyard."

Boutella says that she never lost that sense of fun as she started to dance more seriously, mostly because she enjoys the rigour of learning her steps for a routine.

"I like the discipline. It doesn't mean that it's not fun. I appreciate the seriousness of being focused on something that you really love and trying to achieve something that's inspiring to you."

Sofia Boutella makes quite the entrance in StreetDance 2, with a routine in a Parisian boxing ring.
HANDOUT

Bonnie Raitt's Slipstream is her first album in seven years. HANDOUT

Raitt falls into the Slipstream and finds new success

Returning to the studio. Bonnie Raitt's latest offering finds her receiving inspiration from an unexpected source

Bonnie Raitt had been thinking about working with Grammy-winning producer Joe Henry for years. And Henry had been kicking around the idea of reaching out to the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer whose voice he has adored forever.

It wasn't until mutual friend Allen Toussaint made a cosmic connection that the two finally got together, launching Raitt on the journey to Slipstream, her first new album in seven years. During a recording session with Aaron Neville, Toussaint coyly suggested that Henry work with Raitt in the future. And when Toussaint speaks, Henry always listens.

"He's not like anybody else on this earth," Henry said. "He's like Yoda."

The producer called the performer shortly thereafter and, as the great New Orleans producer and performer suspected, the chemistry between Raitt and Henry was dynamite.

"I was about a month away from thinking of calling and I got the contact from my office saying Joe wants to speak to you," Raitt said. "And I just thought it was so synchronistic. It was one of those really great times, a really great phone call."

Slipstream, her 19th album and her first on her own label, Redwing Records, is a mix of styles and flavours. Al Anderson, formerly of NRBQ, contributes three songs and plays on four, acting as a counterpunch to Henry's more sombre songs. And Raitt even offers a reggae version of Gerry Rafferty's Right Down the Line. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote

"He's not like anybody else on this earth."

Joe Henry speaking about Allen Toussaint

Analysis

Inspiration from strange places

Bonnie Raitt really didn't have elaborate expectations when she joined Joe Henry. They thought they'd spend a few days on a handful of songs, but after three days, they had nine.

"It was like the pilot light was on, but he turned the gas up," Raitt said.

They emerged from those sessions with four new cuts for the album: Henry compositions God Only Knows (perhaps the album's standout) and You Can't Fail Me Now (co-written with Loudon Wainwright III) and the Bob Dylan covers Million Miles and Standing in the Doorway. And Raitt emerged aflame with the need to pull her touring band together to cut more tracks. She eventually added eight others to Slipstream and the cuts left over will be released after she completes tours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More mothering, less acting for Cruz

With a one-year-old son at home, Penelope Cruz is starting to consider cutting back on her career for the sake of motherhood.

"Maybe I'll make one movie a year, maybe two, but it's not going to be more than that because I have other priorities now," Cruz tells Harper's Bazaar.

"I talk about him all day long, even to strangers in the street. It is my favorite subject! But, you know, this is my job."

Cruz and husband Javier Bardem welcomed son Leonardo last year.

Is the Seal/Klum divorce getting ugly?

Seal is striking back at Heidi Klum, reportedly disputing her divorce petition, according to TMZ.

The main issue he takes with her filing? Seal insists there are "community and quasi-community assets" that need to be divided up, while Klum claims a post-nuptial agreement addresses that. In addition, Klum cites January 19 as the official start of their separation, while Seal says the date hasn't been determined.

Seal is also asking for joint physical custody of their children instead of Klum's proposed full physical custody.

"Given that he's away a lot on tour, giving her primary physical custody is pretty much status quo," the source says.

And both parties are reportedly asking to deny spousal support to the other. Klum is worth an estimated $70 million, while Seal is worth $15 million.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

A little background on J. Lo's gift to Casper Smart

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

For Tuesday's Word, I wrote about Jennifer Lopez, 42, gifting beau/backup dancer Casper Smart, 25, with a custom white Dodge pickup truck for his birthday.

Apparently, Lopez "knew that Casper really wanted a truck, and Casper was very excited about the generous gift," a source told People magazine. "Casper was so excited about his new truck that he decided to drive it to dinner. She was smiling about Casper's excitement."

In the column, I made a crack about how: 1) That "source" sounded like a quote-giving robot and 2) How I was surprised that Lopez didn't buy him a Fiat considering all the shilling she does for the car manufacturer. This was the incorrect joke to make. Please check out the following reader mail:

"You may need to do some more digging. Chrysler/Dodge/Ram are owned in part by Fiat which helped bailout Chrysler!! That is why he got a Ram Truck from J. Lo and not a Ford F-150!!!"

"Did you really not know that Fiat and Dodge are both owned by Chrysler LLC, when you wrote that J-Lo dreck?"

"I feel obligated to point out that Fiat holds a considerable financial and developmental stake in Chrysler (who makes Dodge and Jeep vehicles). It wouldn't be too much of a stretch to assume she used an "employee discount" (if any money was spent at all) on that Dodge truck."

In my defence, I am only a semi-good looking recycler of celebrity gossip, not a hard-hitting journalist who knows the ins-and-outs of the car industry. However, thanks to my eagle-eyed readers, who do know such things, we all now know that this "news item" and "gift" was a total plant by Fiat and that truck was totally free in exchange for press. And, really, do celebrities ever pay for anything? Or do they just have to save their cash for when they will inevitably need a high-priced divorce lawyer?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Princess Diana wanted to star in Bodyguard sequel, says Costner

Kevin Costner reveals there were plans for a sequel to The Bodyguard — with Princess Diana interested in starring as herself.

"Diana and I had been talking about doing Bodyguard 2," Costner tells Anderson Cooper in an interview set to air next month.

"I told her I would take care of her just the same way that I took care of Whitney (Houston)."

And though the late Princess had no professional acting experience, Costner was eager to work with her.

"She wanted me to write it for her. I said, 'I'll tailor it for you if you're interested.' She goes, 'I am interested,'" Costner remembers, revealing that he received a draft of the script the day before Diana lost her life in 1997.

Bobbi Kristina agrees to reality show: Report

Bobbi Kristina Brown, the daughter of late singer Whitney Houston, has reportedly made a verbal deal to star in a reality TV series, according to Radar Online.

"This show is being done against her family's advice," a source says. Brown, who is reportedly dealing with her own substance-abuse issues, is "obviously very wild and misguided," the source adds.

"Bobbi is scared the world will label her just like her mother."

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Take spring style by storm

Go ahead, let it pour.
If it rains on your parade you'll be ready

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
Life@metronews.ca

Spring has sprung and the world is... wet? As Canadians we've learned how to rock any climate, and the soggy days of the season are no exception.

This year however, retailers have taken rain gear up a notch — and are giving us no choice but to dance through every downpour.

"Colour is huge this spring," says Sears trend director Cynthia Florek.

"We're seeing the trench updated in electric colours like blue, green and coral or through interesting textures and effects like micro-suede perforations and neutral colour blocking."

Boots, umbrellas and other permeable pairables have followed suit, so take stock of this gorgeous gear.

I'm only happy when it rains. JOE FRESH

On trend

"The trench is the perfect outerwear piece to transition into spring... And anoraks, anoraks, anoraks — spring must-have! I love the Joe Fresh nylon anorak over a tulip dress with pretty pumps — très chic!"

Adrienne Shoom
Style Director at Joe Fresh

Banana Republic Solid Belted Mac, $160 - bananarepublic.com

Attitude Jay Manuel Funnel-Coated Trench, $179.99, sears.ca

Joe Fresh Mac Coat, $29, joefresh.com

Gap Rubber Boots
Gap
$54.95, gap.com

Fulton Red Bird Cage Umbrella
Sears
$34.99, sears.ca

Ladies Rubber Boots in Lace
Walmart
$20, walmart.ca

Old Navy Dot Umbrella
Old Navy
$12.50, oldnavy.ca

Jessica Weekend Boater Shoes
Sears
$59.99, sears.ca

3 LIFE

Style file

Colour me trendy

Most of us can pair one bold colour with another - it just takes a little confidence. But colour blocking, that's more of an art, and it's one to be mastered this spring season.

The highest standard of colour blocking was set by Yves Saint Laurent, who transferred the graphic, pop-art look of painter Piet Mondrian onto fabric. The YSL look was an instant hit as it fit so nicely into the fresh, no-frills mod fashions of the mid 1960s.

• A general definition of colour blocking is the pairing of chunks of contrasting colours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Christian Dior names Belgian designer Raf Simons as its new artistic director

BLAH HURT NUMB ANGRY ANXIOUS DOWN NOT myself TODAY

EVER HAVE DAYS WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE YOURSELF?

Find out why paying attention to those feelings is an important part of dealing with your mental health, and why mental health in Canada must change.

Scotiabank partnersformentalhealth TAKE THE PLEDGE AT NOTMYSELFTODAY.CA

Needs: Bottoms, Betty Draper dresses and beads

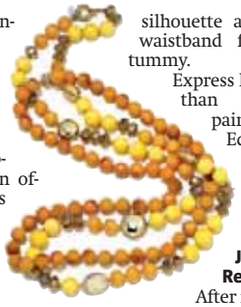
Fashion editor's finds. Check out what's at the very top of fashionistas' must-buy lists this spring season

THE KIT
thekit.ca

Editor Approved
Amid the bombshell models and trendy wardrobe, Express, which recently opened stores across Canada, has made a practical pair of trousers their signature item.

The Editor pant is available in more than five fabrics and updated in of-the-moment hues each season.

The reason they're so popular? They give you a long, lean silhouette and the wide waistband flattens your tummy.



Express has sold more than 19-million pairs so far. The Editor polyester-blend trouser, from $78. express.com

Joan Harris Returns
After months of anticipation (and withdrawal), the Mad Men franchise has returned.

Celebrating the new season, Banana Republic teamed up with the show's costumer Janie Bryant for a 1960s-style collaboration. From Betty Draper-inspired eye lit dresses to bold, colourful confections à la Joan, the collection boasts the best from the show's leading ladies.

Banana Republic Mad Men Collection silk Betty Dress, $185. bananarepublic.ca

One-Minute Miracle
Pile on the beads. A little boho, a little deco, a little ladylike: we view this season's runway trend of multi-strand necklaces as a quick and easy way to update the simplest of wardrobe pieces. Quartz and crystal beads, $395, kumaris.ca

GET ALL THE LATEST BEAUTY KNOW-HOW AT THE KIT INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE, AT THEKIT.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

SIGNÉ MÉTRO CONTEST VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE DRESS

After rising to the challenge of designing an original dress made of Metro newspaper, the five Fashion design students from LaSalle College's Montreal and Vancouver campuses saw their designs selected by a professional jury.

They then had a few weeks to bring their sketches to life. We present to you today the five magnificent dresses that were created with hard work and expert hands. It is now up to you to vote for your favourite one!

You could be among the four winners who will each receive a pair of tickets for the Vancouver Fashion Week fashion show in September.

CHECK OUT THE FIVE DRESSES

NAME: Mattea Goldstein (Vancouver)
TITLE: Flapper Faerie Dress

NAME: Ai Ohyama (Vancouver)
TITLE: Exclusive Dress

NAME: Lourdes Carla Pierre-Paul (Montreal)
TITLE: Individuals

NAME: Synthia Imbert (Montreal)
TITLE: Origami

NAME: Valérie Duval (Montreal)
TITLE: Night Garden

GO TO METRONEWS.CA TO CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE DRESS, LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FINALISTS AND THE EVOLUTION OF THESES DRESSES.

IN COLLABORATION WITH: LASALLE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL

Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

IN THIS HECTIC MODERN WORLD, TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND, AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

@Jeanne_Beker: So surreal. This dream is over: After 27 glorious years, FT production ceased today. So sad to see some of my closest colleagues move on.

@SUCCARRA
Can't wait to see what you do next, Jeanne! :

@Elaine_Salonga
:(Without my formative time interning at FT, I would not be where I am now. Can't wait to see what you do next though...

@ChelseyPerrella
This makes me sad :(

@Jeanne_Beker: But life's about change! We have to embrace that. NEW dreams now. Looking forward to working with Bellmedia + evolving the FT brand.

@Jeanne_Beker: With the stellar @ElleMacpherson, in T.O. to chat up beauty for Revlon + her new Fashion Star show.

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV.

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 22

Decor rules: Draperies should blend with the wall colour and your style of artwork should inspire the look of your area rugs. CRATEANDBARREL.CA

Match it up: Does this go with that?

Decor ideas. How to match your home decor for a beautiful coordinated look

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Like most decor enthusiasts, I prefer to space out my decorating projects and not do it all at once. This gives me a chance to stand back and reflect on my choices. Plus, it's easier on the pocketbook.

But one danger of decorating in stages is that some people may lose focus of the overall look they're trying to achieve. Here's a brief guide to help you get inspired and stay on track:

Fabrics and paint
Start with the largest pattern in each room. In the bedroom, it's the duvet cover/bedding; in the living room it's the sofa; in the bathroom it's the shower curtain.

The second major colour you see in the pattern is the one you match with accessories in the room, and the third colour in the pattern is used for the wall colour.

If there is not a pattern or colour used in your fabric choices then you have a monochromatic colour scheme (all variants of the same colour). In this case, choose the same colour for accessories and wall colours, but choose lighter or darker versions to make things more interesting.

Windows
Shades should blend with the window's framing. If your window trims are white, choose a white window shade. If you have wood window trims, then choose taupe, brown or wood shades.

Draperies should always match the walls. A shade lighter or darker than your paint colour will make them a mainstay classic in the room's decor.

Rugs
Match your area rugs to any artwork you have (or are attracted to). If you like rich Van Gogh-style art, choose richly patterned Persian-style rugs to blend in. If you gravitate toward modern black and white art, choose neutral area rugs in very light or very dark tones.

Lighting
If you are having trouble choosing a lampshade, try matching it to the frames on your walls. If you have dark brown or black frames, choose the same colour for lampshades.

A plain white lampshade will always work but can be a little boring, especially in a room where deeper, darker tones are being used.

Kitchens
The colour of your kitchen backsplash should blend with the upper and lower cabinetry. This will encourage the eye to travel vertically without interruption. For instance, if you have deep-cherry-wood-toned cabinets, your backsplash could be a ruddy brown slate to match.

Countertops should get the same colouring and tones of your appliances. If you've chosen stainless-steel appliances with black trims, a grey-toned counter with dark specs or veining would be perfect.

Dust begets more dust

Ready for a dust-up with those bunnies?

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles the Butler, I am finding it very difficult to do more than "move dust around" when I dust. A lot has to do with static electricity, as the problem is worse on or near electronics such as the TV or DVD player. I am concerned about the use of water or furniture polishes on some types of wood and wood finishes, as I ruined some pieces a while back using polish. Can you help? Robin

Hello Robin,

As I am sure you have all heard me say many times before, dust is both a never-ending duty, and the world today has more dust in it than it has ever had before. So dealing with the dust is important as it continues to build up and can lead to some big dust bunnies.

Remember that even if you don't use a certain room in your house, you still need to dust that space on a regular basis because dust attracts more dust. Thus, keeping up with this task helps to keep life simpler.

Here are some dusting tips:

1. Dust often.
2. Don't use chemical dusting sprays as they often have silicone in them and this builds up on your furniture, and attracts more dust.

3. My personal trick that works perfectly and is used by curators in museums to clean delicate items is to wet your hands just a little, then dry them on a cotton cloth (only 100 per cent cotton). This process makes the cotton cloth the perfect humidity to "damp dust" — but remember to use very little or no water. The cloth should be only humid to pick up the dust perfectly. What's great about this is that there are no chemicals, and the cotton cloths can be cleaned in the washing machine and re-used.

Give this a try and let us know how it works for you.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

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How to stop your kids' sports stuff from totally taking over the house

Breeding little athletes? Celebrate the fact your children are active by giving them a place to store all their gear.

It starts with a lacrosse stick and cleats by the front door. Then comes the batting helmet and glove on the bedroom floor, and the baseball hat on the kitchen table. Karate uniforms pile up in the laundry room next to team jerseys, and errant tennis balls roll down the hall.

Can we get through the spring and summer sports seasons without our homes ending up in total disarray?

Interior designer Betsy Burnham, founder of Burnham Design in Los Angeles, says nearly every home remodelling project she works on these days includes a mudroom with one priority: storing and organizing sports equipment.

Here, she and interior design experts Brian Patrick Flynn of decordemon.com and Kyle Schuneman of Live Well Designs offer tips on handling all this gear without sacrificing style, even when you don't have a mudroom.

Pick up pre-fab kitchen cabinets from big-box retailers and install them as storage solutions for kids' rooms. BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN/HGTVREMODELS.COM/SARAH DORIO/AP

Begin with workflow

Your system for handling sports clothing, says Schuneman, can be as simple as "two colour-coded baskets by the back door or the laundry room: one for dirty, one for clean. Make it a habit to immediately put your uniforms in the dirty basket after the game," he says.

"Once it's out of the wash, you fold it and put it in the clean basket," rather than putting it away with other clothing in a bedroom.

For a dose of style, use colourful woven baskets rather than typical plastic hampers or laundry bins. Just make sure the youngest kids can easily reach their items. "Once you train yourself to this habit, it will be natural," Schuneman says, and the stress of searching for a team jersey before a game will be history.

Have one spot for sports gear

You don't need a huge space for sports gear, and it doesn't have to be in or near a child's bedroom. "Often people are challenged for space," Burnham says. Any spot works: "It can be a little area under the stairs or one area of your entryway," as long as it's dedicated to sports stuff.

One option is revamping part of your garage, Burnham says. Rather than using plastic storage bins and old boxes, outfit this space with vintage metal containers refurbished with fresh paint, or large baskets with lids. The summer sports season "can be a great reason to give your garage a facelift," Burnham says, using storage that is sturdy but attractive.

Or spend a Saturday cleaning out an entryway closet, then add hooks and baskets for sports items. You may have more space available than you think.

Old school meets after school

"A vintage barrel or ceramic pot can house your tall items, like baseball bats, tennis racquets and lacrosse sticks, next to the bench."

Kyle Schuneman of Live Well Designs

Get creative with cabinets

There are many storage options designed specifically for sporting goods and kids' items. But Flynn suggests thinking more broadly. His favourite creative solution, he says, "always solicits an 'Are you kidding?' response."

"I usually pick up pre-fab kitchen cabinets from big box retailers, then install them as storage solutions for kids' rooms," Flynn says.

"They come in all different sizes, many the ideal depth for basketballs or soccer balls, and many in excellent heights, tall enough for baseball bats or hockey sticks."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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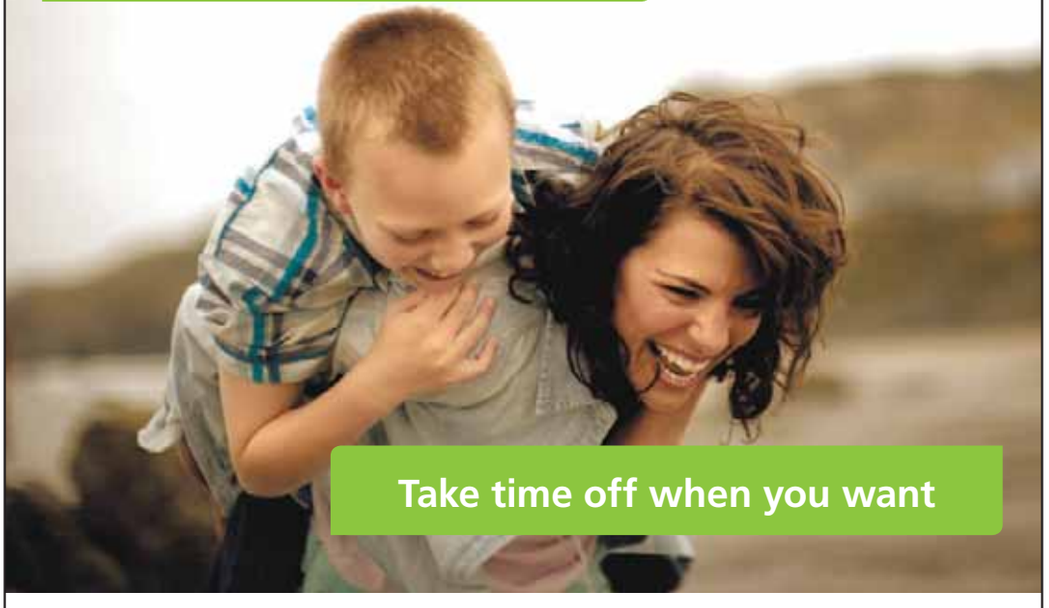

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A small sunroom. BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Small spaces, big ambitions

Feeling square-foot challenged? A few l'il tips for making small spaces stylish and more comfortable

Small may be in when it comes to homes, but that doesn't mean it's easy to decorate. A few simple guidelines, however, can turn a small space from Dilemma to De-Lovely.

Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan, founder of the decor blog Apartment Therapy and author of The Big Book of Small, Cool Spaces (Clarkson Potter, 2010), thinks it's all about light.

"The single most powerful influencer in a room is the lighting," he says.

Every room should have three sources of illumination, which will bounce off walls and create a visual expanse, Gillingham-Ryan says. Track lighting is a good alternative to free-standing fixtures if space is a problem.

"Track has really improved in the past few years. You don't have to buy a big section with large lights; there are many smaller, attractive options," he says.

Rather than buy adjustable furniture for a multi-purpose small space, "it's better to find good pieces that do what they're supposed to," he says. For example, instead of an ottoman with a lid that flips into a tray, buy a great ottoman and a great tray. "You'll appreciate both pieces so much more."

Gillingham-Ryan suggests limiting the colour palette of a small room. He likes off-white in all its iterations, with bright white on ceilings. "Keep floors dark — they're calming and grounding, and will make the walls seem higher," he says.

Use accessories, such as a great rug, to add colour. "You can't change your square footage, but you can change the way the space feels," he says.

Elaine Griffin, a New York-based designer and author of Design Rules (Gotham, 2009), says a welcoming foyer is near the top of her list for small spaces.

"It's an important part of the psychological experience of coming home. I like to create a 'faux foyer' by sitting a decorative cube or box adjacent to the door with a tray for mail, and perhaps a shelf above for keys, a flower and a fragrant candle. Mount a mirror above the shelf," she says.

In the living area, "avoid the temptation to put your sofa on the long wall. Put it on the short wall, and you'll have more room to create decor zones," Griffin says. Loveseats — popular purchases for small apartments — are "a no-no. Truthfully, they only sit one. Go for the better-proportioned 72-to-76-inch 'apartment-sized' sofa."

In tiny bathrooms, Griffin says, "I'm a big fan of wall-mountable, square mini-shelves, which I station in multiples behind the door. Save the most visible space above the toilet for art."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Do some vertical thinking

"Often people only look at the 'footprint' of the room. Look for space on the verticals — railings, hooks and shelves on doors and walls can hold baskets and clothing, and serve as drying areas for laundry."

Janice Simonson, IKEA's design spokesperson

Get creative with storage

'Take time to plan and don't buy what you don't need'

Janice Simonson, IKEA's design spokesperson, weighs in on making small spaces beautiful and functional: "Often people only look at the 'footprint' of the room," she says. "Look for space on the verticals — railings, hooks and shelves on doors and walls can hold baskets and clothing, and serve as drying areas for laundry."

She thinks many people err by buying too much storage, ending up with more stuff that takes space.

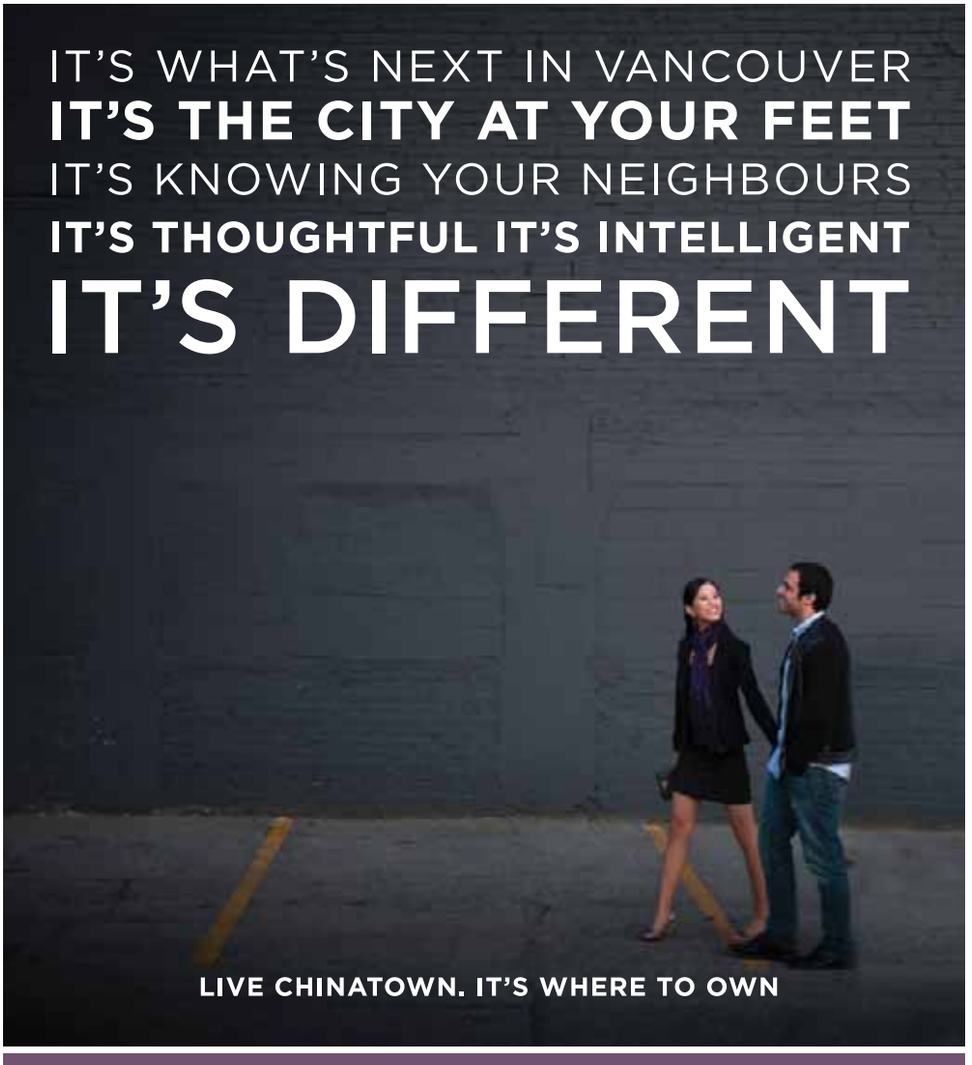
"Take the time to plan; don't buy anything till you've moved in and unpacked, to see what's needed," she says.

Some other general tips:

- Downsize. What do you need and what can you live without? Rip all your CDs to a hard drive, then sell or donate them. Get rid of anything you rarely use.
- Sight lines are important. Benches, open shelves, furniture with legs, light materials — these help the eye perceive a room as more spacious.
- Mobilize. Rolling tables and carts can serve as dining, work or play pieces.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trunks and cushions BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS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That blooming time of year

Your home garden will be green with envy. World horticultural exposition Floriade opens in the Netherlands

The sun is shining, trees are budding, and flowers are unfurling their brilliant petals a bit earlier than planned, thanks to an early Dutch spring and the hundreds of gardeners putting finishing touches on Floriade, the once-a-decade world horticultural exposition.

Organizers are reluctant to repeat the expo's historic billing as "the greatest flower show on earth," because, they say, horticulture encompasses the artistic, scientific and economic aspects of plant care rather than just gardening and looking at flowers.

Still, the flowers are bound to be a major draw, and there are a heck of a lot of them to see.

In all, 1.8 million bulbs have been planted across the exposition's 108-acre (44-hectare) grounds. That's complementing 190,000 perennial flowering plants, 18,000 shrubs, 15,000 hedge plants and 3,000 trees.

One typically Dutch garden already in bloom flaunts two adjacent vistas: one patch of royal purple tulips, mixed with grape and cornflower blue hyacinths. Adjoining it is an eye-popping combination of red and yellow tulips with red, white and blue "baby breath" hyacinths, also known as grape hyacinths. Folding chairs that look like tulips when they snap shut offer a place to sit down and take it all in.

More than 100 participants, often countries or regions, are setting up displays showing off some of their best-known foliage. Some, like China, have built whole pavilions devoted to the latest national trends in plant care and display.

It's "a different experience than a theme park or a zoo," says spokesman Mark Wijman. "It's a very relaxing place, just to walk around and see beautiful things."

Don't worry about missing the plants or flowers in bloom, Wijman assures a group of reporters previewing the grounds in late March, even as hundreds of workmen struggle to complete structures that will house the plants that are still arriving by the truckload: When one field of bulbs has begun to fade, gardening SWAT teams will toil through the night to uproot and replace them.

In addition, whole gardens of perennials have been planted in such a way that new blooms will unfold in different patterns and rippling colours as spring makes way for summer and fall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An outdoor wonderland

It's "a different experience than a theme park or a zoo. It's a very relaxing place, just to walk around and see beautiful things."

Floriade spokesman Mark Wijman

A blossoming tree at Floriade ERMINDO ARMINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tulip field at Floriade. ERMINDO ARMINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

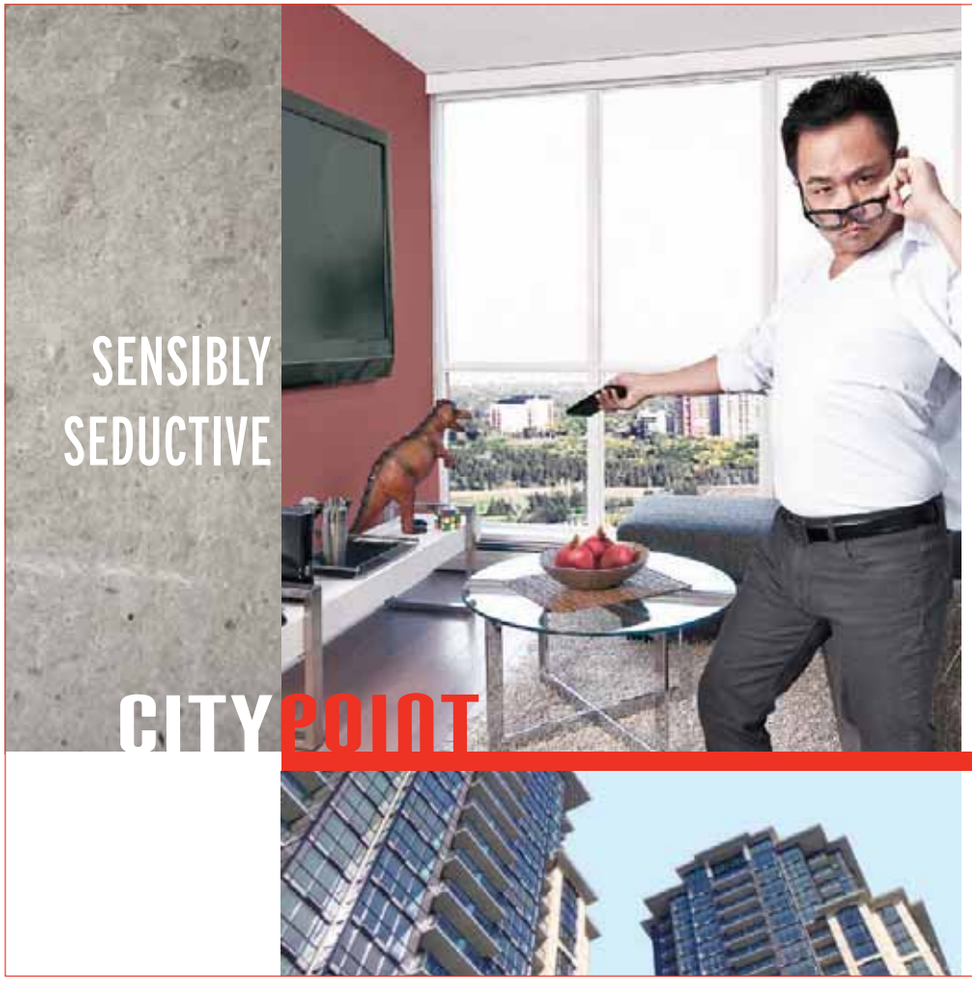
Gardens with personalities

Flower fans come from all over

Floriade runs through Oct. 7 and is counting on upward of two million visitors from the Netherlands and Germany alone, plus gardening aficionados, flower fans, and businesspeople in smaller numbers from every corner of the world.

Arriving visitors can get an overview of the massive scale of the grounds by taking a gondola ride over the treetops, looking down on the splashes of colour and eccentric buildings far below.

Individual contributors fund their own displays, often with the help of local businesses eager to show off their country's best. If you've heard of the Netherlands' 17th-century tulip bulb mania, you may enjoy seeing firsthand what all the excitement was about: Some of the strains have been kept alive and pure by aficionados, and are on display. Perhaps with a nod to Europe's economic crisis, the Greek garden is simplicity itself: a grove of gnarled olive trees planted in rocky soil. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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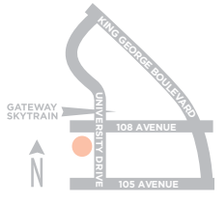

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The sponginess of humus makes soils fluffier even as it absorbs water — just what plants like. LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No such thing as too much humus

Black gold. It's what put the 'organic' in organic gardening — a humus-rich soil is the earmark of any good gardener

Let's pay homage to humus. As the garden gets into full swing, it's a good time for such tribute, because enthusiasm can be parlayed into action.

No one can say exactly what humus (pronounced HUE-mus) is because it's a witch's brew of thousands of organic compounds that result from the decomposition of dead plants and animals.

"Yuck," you say? Don't. Think of compost, leaf mould, the spongy, dark layer of earth you see when you push aside leaves on the forest floor.

Think of the rich, dark soils of the Argentine pampas and the Russian steppe. Such soils have been the breadbaskets of the world because they are rich in humus.

Humus helps your garden in many ways

Humus is one of those few things in life that you — your soil, rather — cannot get too much of. Although it's naturally present in all soils, if you garden you have to conscientiously preserve and augment humus.

This is because many garden activities hasten humus decomposition. Not that humus decomposition is all bad; many of humus' benefits, such as the release of plant nutrients, come about as humus decomposes.

But when humus loss outstrips its accumulation, it's like taking money out of a bank faster than you put it in.

Tilling the soil and using concentrated nitrogen fertilizers accelerate humus decomposition. Tillage charges the soil with air, causing microbial populations to soar, and these hungry microbes then gobble up humus very quickly. Following an initial burst of nutrients, the soil is left poorer.

Concentrated nitrogen fertilizers have a similar effect, so go easy on both tillage and concentrated fertilizers.

Take steps to preserve this 'black gold'

You can and should add humus to your soil. Grow it in place by setting aside part of your garden or part of the season to cover crops, which are plants grown specifically for soil improvement. Grassy plants, such as oats, rye, sorghum and wheat, are best for increasing soil humus.

And haul humus or the makings of humus into your garden in the form of compost, straw, leaves, wood chips and other bulky plant materials. Just lay these materials on top of the ground and the goodness will naturally work its way down. You'll also get mulch's benefits, which include locking moisture in the soil, preventing wide swings in soil temperatures and snuffing out weeds.

Of course, we've only scratched the surface (ha, ha) in this homage to humus. Once you have gained reverence for this material, explore ways to preserve and augment it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keep humus happening

"Humus is one of those few things in life that you — your soil, rather — cannot get too much of. Although it's naturally present in all soils, if you garden you have to conscientiously preserve and augment humus."

Scratching the surface

Both the chemistry and the feel of humus make it such great stuff.

- **Did you know?** Humus is covered with negative charges, which keep positively charged plant foods, such as potassium and calcium, from washing out of the soil.
- **A soil rich in humus is also rich in microbial glues.** At first, glue of any kind might seem like a bad thing for soil, but what these glues do is to join small clay particles into larger aggregates. Large aggregates have large air spaces between them, and — lo and behold — formerly tight clay soil is now breathing as easily as well-aerated sand.
- **Humus also has buffering acidity, which means that you no longer have to be so careful about getting soil acidity (pH) exactly right.** And humus binds with certain nutrients to make them more easily absorbed by plants.
- **Did you know?** Physically, the sponginess of humus makes soils fluffier even as it absorbs water — just what plants like.

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Reclaim Sunday dinner with dishes the family can bond over

1. Remove sausages from casings and crumble. In a large skillet over high heat, brown sausage. Transfer to paper towels to drain. Wipe the fat out of the pan.

2. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook until al dente (if using rigatoni or orecchiette, cook for 8 minutes; if using penne, cook for 9 minutes).

3. Heat olive oil and garlic in wiped-out skillet over medium-high heat until garlic is golden.

4. Add broccoli rabe, red pepper flakes and salt and cook for 5 minutes, stirring a few times.

5. Add sausage and butter and cook over high heat for 5 minutes, stirring a few times.

6. Drain pasta, reserving 250 ml (1 cup) of the cooking water and transfer pasta to skillet.

7. Mix well, adding water if pasta seems too dry. Pour into a large warm serving bowl, sprinkle cheese over top and serve.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY DINNER? A YEAR OF ITALIAN MENUS WITH 250 RECIPES THAT CELEBRATE FAMILY BY LISA CAPONIGRI (STERLING EPICURE, 2012).

Ingredients

8 to 10 portions

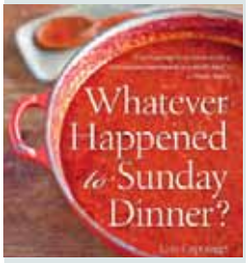
- 1 kg (2 lb) Italian sausage
- 1 kg (2 lb) rigatoni, penne or orecchiette
- 250 ml (1 cup) extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 cloves garlic, crushed into a paste
- 1.5 g (3 lb) broccoli rabe, stems trimmed and cut into 2.5-cm (1-inch) pieces
- 5 ml (1 tsp) red pepper flakes
- 5 ml (1 tsp) sea salt
- 60 ml (4 tbsp/1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 250 ml (1 cup) grated Pecorino Romano

Pasta con Salsicce e Broccolini

This recipe serves eight to 10 people. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Cookbook of the Week

Whatever Happened to Sunday Dinner?



Lisa Caponigri has released Whatever Happened to Sunday Dinner? to give families recipes they can easily cook and enjoy together.

Caponigri has devised 52 delicious Italian menus — one for each Sunday of the year — that feature classics like crostini, lasagne, polenta, stuffed peppers, veal piccata, risotto alla Milanese, and ricotta pie.

There are also many surprises like Woodman's pasta and Italian french fries — and traditional, treasured dishes from her own family's kitchen, such as Nana's Strufoli and Grandma Caponigri's Ragu Sauce. **METRO**

Medaglione di Agnello con Prosciutto. An Italian take on lamb

These pan-seared lamb medallions are paired with a thin slice of salty prosciutto, then finished with a white wine reduction sauce.

1. In a large skillet, melt 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the butter over medium heat. Add prosciutto slices and warm through for 2 minutes. Transfer to a plate and cover with aluminum foil.

2. With a 5-cm (2-inch) round biscuit cutter, cut a round out of each slice of bread. Discard trimmings.

3. Melt 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the butter in the same skillet over medium heat. Add bread rounds (you may need to do this in two batches) and brown until golden on both sides. Remove to a paper towel-lined plate and keep warm in the oven on low or cover with aluminum foil.

4. In the same skillet, melt remaining 90 ml (6 tbsp) butter over medium heat. Add lamb and cook for no more than 2 minutes per side. Season to taste with sea salt and pepper on both sides as you cook.

5. Place bread rounds on a serving platter and top each with a slice of prosciutto. Place a lamb medallion on each.

6. Add wine to skillet, turn heat to high and deglaze pan, scraping up all the browned bits stuck to the bottom. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes to reduce wine slightly. Pour over lamb and serve.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY DINNER? A YEAR OF ITALIAN MENUS WITH 250 RECIPES THAT CELEBRATE FAMILY BY LISA CAPONIGRI (STERLING EPICURE, 2012).

Ingredients

8 to 10 portions

- 150 ml (10 tbsp/1 stick plus 2 tbsp) unsalted butter, divided
- 12 thin slices prosciutto
- 12 slices white bread, crusts removed
- 12 lamb chops, about 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick, cut off bone, bone removed
- Sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) white wine

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SPORTS

Phoenix Coyotes

"We're not setting a timeline.... We're dealing with it, and we're continuing to pursue a solution and (if we) reach a point where we conclude we can't reach a solution, we'll deal with it. But we do hope we can reach a solution so that the timing will become irrelevant."

Commissioner Gary Bettman, explaining Wednesday that the NHL continues talking with prospective buyers for the league-owned Phoenix Coyotes with no timeline for selling the team. The commissioner said in January that three groups showed serious interest in the Coyotes. He said the NHL is still talking to prospective buyers.

On the web

There may have been some panicky moments around the country as the 2010 Olympic gold-medal hockey game went to overtime, but as Team Canada head coach Mike Babcock explains in his new book, "there was no way doubt was getting in the dressing room on that day." Scan the code for the story.

Ryan Kesler and Los Angeles Kings right wing Dustin Brown collide in the first period Wednesday at Rogers Arena in Vancouver. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kings conquer Canucks in Game 1

NHL playoffs. Kings come back with two goals in third period breaking a 2-2 tie

Game 1

Kings	Canucks
4	2

Dustin Penner scored the winning goal with 3:14 left in the third period as the underdog Los Angeles Kings upset the favoured Vancouver Canucks 4-2 in the opener of their Western Conference quarter-final series Wednesday night.

Los Angeles only secured a playoff berth with three games left in the regular season and entered the series as the clear underdog. Penner had gone the last nine games of the regular season without a goal.

The winger capitalized on a lucky bounce after a Mike Richards pass went off Jeff Carter's skate, and he whipped the puck past Canuck goaltender Roberto Luongo.

Mike Richards, former Canuck Willie Mitchell and Dustin Brown, into an empty net in the final minute, also scored for the Kings.

Alex Burrows and Alex Edler replied for the Canucks.

The Kings outshot the Canucks 39-26. Los Angeles converted two of seven power plays, while the Canucks were blanked on five.

The Kings controlled most of the play in the first two periods. The Canucks hung in as the score was tied 1-1 after the first period and 2-2 after the second.

The game got off to a raucous start as Vancouver wingers David Booth, playing the first playoff game of his career, and Max Lapierre hammered L.A. star defenceman Drew Doughty into the end boards, prompting the sellout crowd of 18,890 to wave their free towels in jubilation. Burrows opened the scoring 3:17 into the game.

A delay-of-game penalty to Vancouver's Chris Higgins for shooting the puck over the glass gave the Kings a five-on-three power play for 1:11. But L.A. needed just 10 seconds to forge a 1-1 tie as Richards beat Luongo with a shot through the legs from a sharp angle.

The goal came after Vancouver's Sammy Pahlsson won a face-off in the Canucks end and sent the puck back to teammates. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Playoff standings

- **On top.** Canucks finished first in the NHL for the second straight season with a 51-22-9 record.
- **Underdog.** The Kings finished eighth in the Western Conference with a 40-27-15 mark.
- **Next round.** Game 2 is Friday in Vancouver.

NHL

Flyers flip script on Pens in OT

Jakub Voracek beat Marc-Andre Fleury from in close 2:23 into overtime to give the Philadelphia Flyers a 4-3 comeback victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference quarterfinal series.

Fleury stopped Matt Read's shot from the corner, but Voracek pounced on the rebound to cap a furious rally from a 3-0 deficit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boston Bruins

Horton likely to miss the playoffs

Bruins forward Nathan Horton is expected to miss the Stanley Cup playoffs because of a concussion.

Horton suffered the injury Jan. 22 in a game against the Philadelphia Flyers and has not played since. He had three game-winning goals in last year's Stanley Cup run, but missed the final four games of the championship series against Vancouver after suffering a concussion in Game 3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago Blackhawks

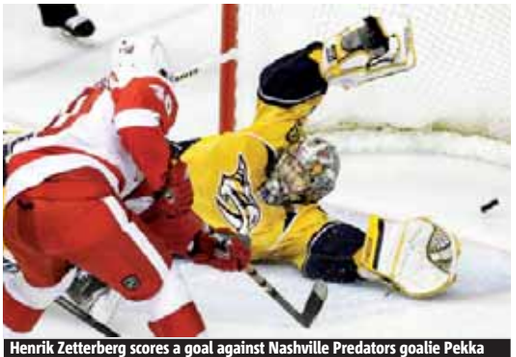
Toews expected to play Game 1

Chicago captain Jonathan Toews is expected to play in the opening game of the Blackhawks' playoff series against the Phoenix Coyotes on Thursday. He missed the final 22 games of the regular season due to a concussion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonathan Toews at practice on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Predators give Red Wings a rough welcome in series opener



Henrik Zetterberg scores a goal against Nashville Predators goalie Pekka Rinne Wednesday in Nashville, Tenn. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Red Wings insisted they wanted the chance to open the post-season on the road. The Nashville Predators have given them a rude reminder of how tough life away from Detroit can be.

Gabriel Bourque scored two goals in his post-season debut, and Nashville held onto home-ice advantage by beating Detroit Red Wings 3-2 on Wednesday night to open their Western Conference playoff series.

"We know the next game's going to be a lot harder than this one," Nashville coach Barry Trotz said. "We're OK with that."

Paul Gaustad scored his first post-season goal, and Pekka Rinne made 35 saves.

"It was amazing," Rinne said about the atmosphere." "It's unbelievable. These guys, they always have that extra gear, and for sure we try to take advantage of it."

Henrik Zetterberg and Tomas Holmstrom scored power-play goals for Detroit.

The Red Wings lost centre Darren Helm in the first period, and coach Mike Babcock said Helm was having surgery for a cut on his right forearm. Babcock said he had no word on the severity of the injury except it was bad enough the centre was taken immediately to a hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Home ice advantage

- **The Predators** started at home after edging Detroit for the No. 4 seed, and they started their third post-season series against their Central Division rival with their first win in the opening game.
- **Game 2** is Friday night in Nashville.

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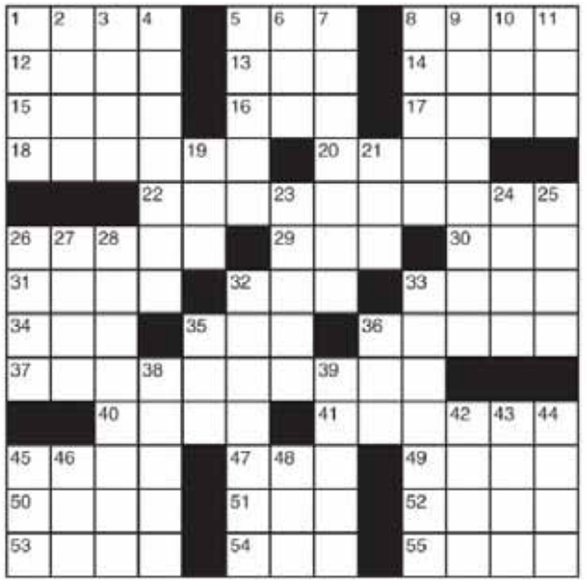
Crossword

Across

1 Sitarist's rendition
5 Pouch
8 Sedimentary deposit
12 Beige
13 Swelled head
14 Freshly
15 Send forth
16 Lair
17 Start over
18 Man's hat style
20 Campus area
22 Etui's cousin?
26 Invigorating
29 Coop occupant
30 Street address?
31 Tramp's love
32 Pickle container
33 Actress Jessica
34 Whatever amount
35 Pitch
36 Skin
37 1959 Hudson/Day movie
40 Gentle soul
41 Subtlety
45 Raised platform
47 Make a choice
49 Gander
50 Into the sunrise
51 Digits (Abbr.)
52 Capri, e.g.
53 Crazy
54 Actor Ron
55 Geographical septet

Down

1 Coral structure
2 Pinnacle
3 Crossword diagram
4 Final exam?
5 Car style
6 Census statistic
7 Triumph over
8 Fergie, less familiarly
9 Like wax fruit
10 Started
11 Teeter-totter quorum
19 Sartorial problem
21 Sailors' org.
23 "USA Today" feature
24 Spheres
25 Ark skipper
26 Applaud
27 Hindu princess
28 Writer of pastoral pieces
32 Mandible
33 Acids' neutralizers
35 Pig stealer of rhyme
36 Winter ailment
38 Survives
39 Nervous
42 Winning margin, maybe
43 Pop flavor
44 — out a living
45 Society newbie
46 Motorists' grp.
48 Rep. or Dem.



Sudoku

8					6			
2				1		3	9	
1		5			8			
5	6	8				4		
4								2
		7				5	6	1
			2			8		7
	1	4		3				6
			6					9

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	6	4	9	5	3	8	7
7	8	4	1	3	2	5	9	6
9	3	5	7	8	6	2	4	1
2	6	7	9	4	1	8	5	3
3	4	9	5	7	8	1	6	2
8	5	1	2	6	3	4	7	9
4	1	2	6	5	7	9	3	8
6	9	3	8	1	4	7	2	5
5	7	8	3	2	9	6	1	4

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

QNCI H UESER PM YCUK HSMEUSCG PI YPCQPIZ MEBCRNPIZ, BPZNR EIC MHK PRM CKCM HUC UPYCRCG?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE ZOO, A BUNCH OF WICKED ZEBRAS WERE UNASHAMEDLY PLAYING A GAME OF STRIPE POKER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals I

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 12°/6° Sunny
Friday 12°/8° Showers 40%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now. Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Sometimes you are too nice and if you let someone off the hook today when they don't deserve it, you will regret it later.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You need to be by yourself today and the only way you can do that is to put a barrier between you and negative people.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. This is a good time to approach people in positions of authority, especially if you need support.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You can accomplish almost anything you want to, but you've got to look confident.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. What you want more than anything today is financial stability. How can you make your talents pay?

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. If a loved one makes a silly mistake today don't make a big issue of it.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. With mind planet Mercury at odds with Saturn in your sign, you could easily fall into the trap of thinking that something is important when it really doesn't matter at all.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Give as much of yourself as you can today. Be generous to those you love and to those whose words and activities rub you the wrong way.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. This is a good time to deal with issues on the home front.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. If you have done something wrong, now is the time to apologize. The planets will help you to find just the right words.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. There is no such thing as something for nothing – ever. Keep that simple truth in front of you today and you won't go far wrong.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Do what you can to help someone in need today but keep your distance emotionally.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"I have a coupon — 50 per cent off full body waxing for two!"
Arushi

WONG MAYE-E/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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*Based on 2012 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Government of Canada. Actual fuel consumption may vary. †Model shown is Prius c Technology model with Premium Package with a MSRP of $25,340. MSRPs do not include freight and PDI ($1,565), license, insurance, registration, applicable taxes, levies and fees. Dealer may sell for less.